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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

The stated meeting of the executive council December 11 was open to the public and an audience of about fifty was present. Memorial addresses were presented in honor of Major Return I. Holcombe and Captain Henry A. Castle, the former by Dr. Warren Upham, and the latter by Hon. Gideon S. Ives. Mr. Sydney A. Patchin read a paper on "Banking in Minnesota in the Territorial Period." The annual meeting of the society was held January 15. Following the business session, at which the usual reports were presented, the society adjourned to the House Chamber for the annual address, which consisted of a memorial in honor of James J. Hill by Mr. Joseph Gilpin Pyle. This part of the meeting was open to the public and the audience numbered about seventy-five.

The following new members, all active, have been enrolled during the quarter ending January 31, 1917: Sydney B. Dean, Rhoda J. Emery, Mrs. Marion R. Furness, Jesse A. Gregg, John D. Hicks, Lydia M. Ickler, Frank J. Ottis, Frank Schlick, and Kathrene S. Sleppy of St. Paul; Frank G. McMillan, Maren Michelet, Franc M. Potter, and Edward S. Thurston of Minneapolis; Thomas J. McElligott of Appleton; Richard A. Costello of Graceville; Samuel M. Gillelan of Bridgeport, Connecticut; and Leland S. Kemnitz of Detroit, Michigan. Deaths among the members during the same period were as follows: Ferdinand Willius, St. Paul, November 7; Emerson Hadley, St. Paul, November 11; Chester A. Congdon, Duluth, November 21; Ansel Oppenheim, St. Paul, December 9; Captain J. Stearns Smith, St. Paul, December 19; Ether L. Shepley, St. Paul, January 2; George Thompson, St. Paul, January 7; and Captain Axel H. Reed, Glencoe, January 21.

The November number of the press bulletin issued by the Wisconsin Historical Society contains the following item under the headline "Minnesota to Have Splendid Historical Library Building." The paragraph was published in a number of Wisconsin papers. "The Minnesota Historical Society, founded as

was ours in Wisconsin, when the commonwealth was in its infancy, has never possessed an adequate or suitable home. This defect will soon be remedied, however, for a splendid building to house the Society's collections and activities is in process of erection by the State and will be ready for occupancy it is expected, some time during 1917. The histories of Wisconsin and Minnesota are inseparably linked together. Two decades ago Wisconsin provided a suitable home for the State Historical Society whose library at Madison is the most notable historical library west of Washington. That our neighbor on the west has at length made provision for so fine an historical library building is a cause for congratulation throughout all the Northwest."

The superintendent of the society attended the annual meeting of the American Historical Association at Cincinnati during the last week in December and represented the Minnesota Historical Society at the Conference of Historical Societies held in connection with the meeting.

GIFTS

A record book and some papers of the Clearwater Guards of Clearwater, Minnesota, have been presented by Mr. E. K. Whiting of Owatonna. They were found among the papers of his father, the late Samuel Whiting of Clearwater, who was orderly sergeant of the company. The record book contains the constitution adopted December 31, 1860, a list of members enrolled from January 3 to September 23, 1861, by-laws adopted March 15, 1861, and minutes of meetings from January 7 to May 22, 1861. Mounted in the book is a copy of the printed circular containing the proclamation of Ignatius Donnelly, "Governor *ad interim*," of April 16, 1861, calling for a regiment of volunteers for the Civil War, and "Special Order, No. 1" of Adjutant General Acker announcing plans for the organization of the regiment. The Clearwater Guards voted on April 22 not to volunteer the services of the company, but a number of its members enlisted in Company D of the First Regiment, and on May 22 the "Guards" turned out to escort them to the boat which was to take them to camp.

From the Minnesota Boat Club, through Mr. George B. Ware, secretary, the society has received the first minute book of the club, covering the years from its organization in 1870 to its incorporation in 1873, and also the first log book entitled "A True Story of a Number of Bad Boys Who Went Rowing on the Sabbath Day." Mr. Ware states that the directors of the club feared that during a change of officers these books might be lost and that they desired to deposit them where their preservation would be assured and where they would be accessible to members at any time. It is to be hoped that other organizations will see the wisdom of depositing their early records with the historical society.

Mrs. Ida W. Wilson of Cohagen, Montana, has presented a collection of some hundreds of letters and papers which belonged to her husband, the late Wilford C. Wilson of Minneapolis. The collection consists largely of material relating to members of the Eleventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. Mr. Wilson served in this regiment during the Civil War, and for several years had been gathering biographical data concerning its members, which he expected to publish in some form. It is understood that before he died, in 1911, he had secured about all the information available.

Mr. John W. Jackson of Stillwater has presented to the society two interesting old volumes of business accounts. These were originally the property of John McKusick, a Stillwater pioneer of the early forties and one of the Maine men who helped lay the foundations of the lumber industry in the St. Croix Valley. The volumes contain a journalized record of transactions in logs, lumber, real estate, and general merchandise in the period from 1848 to 1859. As the entries are detailed and legible, there is offered a wealth of information upon such subjects as the kinds and prices of commodities, the cost of labor and of manufacture, and the names, needs, activities, and movements of the people of that time and region.

Mr. Frederick B. Yates of Stillwater, former surveyor general of logs and lumber for the first district with headquarters at Stillwater, has presented three volumes of the records of that

office which he preserved as curiosities when old records were being disposed of to make room for new. Two of the volumes are a record of log marks that were entered in the period from 1854 to 1875. Entries prior to March 1, 1857, according to a statement in the first volume, were "taken from a Book kept by Robert Hasty, as Surveyor General, and now on file in the Sur. Gens. Office." The record includes, besides the marks, descriptions of the marks, owners' names, dates of entries, dates of transfers, and names of subsequent owners. A third volume is a record of "orders" from 1858 to 1879, the same being the surveyor general's authorization by log-owners to scale and release to purchasers stated quantities of logs from the boom.

A number of old account books, manuscript maps, and miscellany, which were at various times brought into court in Washington County as exhibits by litigants who never reclaimed them, have been secured through the kindness of Mr. David A. Connors, clerk of the district court. Among them are four account books, for the years 1883 and 1884, of the steamer "Jennie Hayes," a boat which carried freight and passengers on the St. Croix River between Stillwater, Taylors Falls, and intermediate points. The set includes a cash book, a journal, a ledger, and a freight book. The last is of special interest as a source of detailed information about river transportation at that period, for it contains a daily record of trips made, showing the kinds and quantities of freight carried, together with the names of shippers and consignees, the loading and unloading points, and freight charges. Another record is that of the corporate proceedings, from 1874 to 1883, of Seymour, Sabin, and Company, a Stillwater manufacturing concern in which former United States Senator Dwight M. Sabin was interested. The maps referred to show the rights of way through Washington County of the St. Paul and Chicago, the Lake Superior and Mississippi, and the Minneapolis and St. Croix railroads, together with the towns through which they passed and the chief topographical features of contiguous territory. They are officially certified, and bear the dates 1870, 1871, and 1887, respectively.

Mr. Charles A. Lammers, city clerk of Stillwater, has donated a series of six pamphlets and books containing charters and

ordinances of the city of Stillwater, together with rules of government of the city council and special laws affecting Stillwater. These publications are dated 1858, 1871, 1873, 1874, 1881, and 1887, respectively. With the exception of the *Amendment of City Charter*, 1873, which was published by authority of the legislature, they were authorized by the city council. The city of Stillwater was incorporated in 1854. Subsequent alterations in the charter to the year 1887, city ordinances from 1854 to 1887, and special laws from 1858 to 1887 are included in the series in question. Accompanying the series is a pamphlet containing the charter prepared and proposed by the board of freeholders in 1915.

With the addition of ten recently acquired issues the society's set of Stillwater city directories now includes seventeen volumes covering the years 1881-85, 1887, 1890-1915. For the new acquisitions the society is indebted to Miss Mary E. Corson, librarian of the Stillwater Public Library, Charles A. Lammers, city clerk, F. E. Holcombe, and F. M. Welch, all of Stillwater.

The society has received a file of census schedules which contain the official returns made by Washington County census takers in connection with the national and state censuses in the years 1850, 1860, 1870, 1875, 1880, and 1885, together with a local census of Stillwater taken in 1853. The former material appears to be duplicated by similar records on file in the state archives, with the exception of a considerable number of important schedules for 1860 and all of the schedules for 1880. The acquired file will therefore supplement the material already available as a source of exceedingly valuable information about the people, activities, and institutions of Washington County.

Three well-worn school books—a speller, a grammar, and an arithmetic—have been received from Mrs. M. M. Bolles of Stillwater. Mrs. Bolles, as Mary Maria Carli, used these books in school at Stillwater in the forties and early fifties. They therefore illustrate one phase of the very beginnings of elementary education in Minnesota.

The society has received from Miss Ina Firkins, reference librarian of the University of Minnesota, a volume of *Poems* by

her brother Chester Firkins (Boston, 1916. 198 p.). Mr. Firkins was born in Minneapolis in 1882 and attended the University of Minnesota. At the time of his death in 1915 he had attained the distinction of being considered among the most promising of the younger journalists and poets. The verses contained in the present collection, arranged for publication by Miss Firkins, appeared in various periodicals and newspapers during the last twelve years and represent the best of his work. Of particular interest are the poems of the Northwest.

Professor John H. Gray, head of the department of economics in the University of Minnesota, has presented a specially bound volume containing a collection of twenty separates or reprints of articles written by him. The volume includes also an autographed photograph of the writer, a copy of the sketch of his life in *Who's Who in America*, and a list of his writings complete to September 12, 1916, and including 354 items.